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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

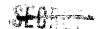
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NSC BRIEFING

29 June 1955

THE REST GERMAN ARMS DEBATE

- I. Bitterly contested arms debate in test German Bundestag is something of an indirect rebuff to Adenauer, but, does not indicate his power over public opinion and the Bundestag is slipping.
 - A. Coalition opposition to the poorly drafted bill only reflects deep concern that Prussian type militarism be avoided.
 - B. Poor coordination between ministries and parliament also responsible for porr showing of coalition in the debate.
 - C. Adenauer's general popularity remains almost at its peak,
- II. The debate on 27-28 June over the temporary arms bill makes it uncertain that Adenauer can put any Germans into uniform before fall.
 - A. Bill authorizes calling up 6000 volunteers for army uncleus.
 - B. Bundestag passed bill on first reading but demanded changes in text to define more sharply civilian control over army.
 - C. Because the Bundestag adjourns on 15 July, little time left for changes so that Bundestag and Bundestat can give it final approval. (Three readings required for Bundestag approval.)
- DOCUMENT NO. At itude of the Bundestag towards the government's temporary DOCUMENT NO. CHANGE IN CHANGE IN



- B. Both houses of parliament show disposition to haggle over terms of each bill.
- C. During arms debate, Adenauer was forced to promise coalition that several rearmament aspects would be covered by constitutional amendments.
 - 1. On strictly legal basis, rearmament per se probably requires no constitutional changes.
 - 2. One change in constitution necessary if West Germany takes over all sovereign powers granted it under Parir accords.
 - 3. Adenauer probably no longer has two-thirds constitutional wajority in Bundestag due to the increasing unreliability of the coalition Refugee Party.
- Purther coalition difficulties can be expected over rearmament legislation when Adenauer is forced to renego on promises for rearmament constitutional amendments.
- of volunteers will not likely occur until next spring.
- W. Attitude displayed by Bundestag during the debate suggests that many deputies want to procrastinate on enacting a conscription bill until after next federal elections in mid-1957.

